

HCS HB 75 -- SEWAGE TREATMENT FEES

SPONSOR: Gatschenberger

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Local Government by a vote of 19 to 0.

This substitute prohibits any city, town, village, sewer district, or water supply district in St. Charles County that does not actually process or treat sewage or wastewater but pays another entity for providing the service from charging and collecting from its customers a premium, fee, tax, assessment, or other charge of more than 3% more than the rate it pays to the other entity without a majority vote of the qualified voters of the city, town, village, sewer district, or water supply district at any public election day in August or November. If a majority of the votes are opposed to the question, then the question cannot be resubmitted under this section sooner than 12 months from the date of the last submission.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that a certain city, town, village, sewer district, or water supply district in St. Charles County has been charging the highest sewage processing rate in the county, and it is more than what it actually pays to another entity to provide the service.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Gatschenberger.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that rate-setting decisions should be made at the local level. This bill arbitrarily limits the rate without consideration of all the relevant factors.

Testifying against the bill were Missouri Rural Water Association; Michael Daugherty, Public Water Supply District #2 of St. Charles County; Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities; and Association of Water Districts.